

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A pneumatic tire comprising an innerliner which comprises a layer ~~[[of]]~~ comprising a modified ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (C) obtained by reacting 1-50 parts by weight of a monofunctional epoxy compound (B) with 100 parts by weight of an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) having an ethylene content of 25-50 mol%, wherein the modified ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (C) is crosslinked by irradiation with an energy ray.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The pneumatic tire according to claim 19, wherein the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) has a degree of saponification of 90 % or more.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The pneumatic tire according to claim 19, wherein the layer of the modified ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (C) has an oxygen transmission rate at 20°C and at 65 % RH of  $3.0 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{cm}/\text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{sec} \cdot \text{cmHg}$  or less.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The pneumatic tire according to claim 19, wherein the thickness of the layer of the modified ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (C) is 50  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A pneumatic tire comprising an innerliner which comprises a layer ~~[[of]]~~ comprising a modified ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (C) obtained by reacting 1-50 parts by weight of a monofunctional epoxy compound (B) with 100 parts by weight of an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) having an ethylene content of 25-50 mol%, and further comprises an auxiliary layer (D) of an elastomer adjacent to the layer of the modified ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (C), wherein the modified ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (C) is crosslinked by irradiation with an energy ray.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The pneumatic tire according to claim 24, wherein the auxiliary layer (D) has an oxygen transmission rate at 20°C and at 65 % RH of  $3.0 \times 10^{-9}$  cm<sup>3</sup>•cm/cm<sup>2</sup>•sec•cmHg or less.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The pneumatic tire according to claim 24, wherein a butyl rubber or a halogenated butyl rubber is used in the auxiliary layer (D).

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): The pneumatic tire according to claim 24, wherein a diene-based elastomer is used in the auxiliary layer (D).

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The pneumatic tire according to claim 24, wherein the auxiliary layer (D) has a thickness of 50-1500 μm in total.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A pneumatic tire comprising an innerliner which comprises a layer ~~[[of]]~~ comprising a modified ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (C) obtained by reacting 1-50 parts by weight of a monofunctional epoxy compound (B) with 100 parts by weight of an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) having an ethylene content of 25-

50 mol%, and further comprises an auxiliary layer (D) of an elastomer adjacent to the layer of the modified ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (C), wherein the layer of the modified ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (C) is laminated with the auxiliary layer (D) through at least one adhesive layer, wherein the modified ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (C) is crosslinked by irradiation with an energy ray.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The pneumatic tire according to claim 29, wherein the auxiliary layer (D) is designed so that in a region from the end of each belt to a bead portion, a portion of the auxiliary layer (D) corresponding to a width of at least 30 mm in the radius direction is thicker by at least 0.2 mm than a portion of the auxiliary layer (D) corresponding to a portion of the auxiliary layer (D) under the belt.